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On Communism

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Speech Material

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished and Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a keen pleasure for me, as the representative of Louisiana's judiciary, to join in the opening of this most significant seminar which is being presented as a public service under the co-sponsorship of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana State University Law School and the Baton Rouge Bar Association. This program does, in fact, reflect the tradition of service associated with our profession at its very best, for Communism is the antithesis of the rule of law upon which we base our freedoms, our liberty and our cherished political institutions. It is most appropriate that our profession should take a leading part in the sponsorship of such a program for when communism moves to destroy any existing society its first assault is upon law--the protector of human rights and dignity. As John Edgar Hoover has pointed out in last February's issue of the American Bar Association Journal, under the intriguing title "Shall There Be Law or Tyranny", "the communists have nothing but contempt for our courts, our legal profession, our principles of jurisprudence. To them, the Communist Party is the highest law, the tribunal of ultimate appeal. Law is defined and executed by the discipline of the Party."

When we consider that in the relatively short period of slightly more than the forty years since the Russian revolution of 1917, approximately one billion people have been forced under the yoke of the Communists, we cannot fail to do everything in our power to alert our people to this terrible menace. Knowledge of the aims, objectives and methods of the communist conspiracy is indispensable to our survival in the death struggle now going between the Communist way of life and our own. We find the

reason for such a venture as today's program in one telling paragraph from the 1961 Report of the ABA's Special Committee on Communist Tactics, Strategy and Objectives. The Committee stated:

"The free world is paying a heavy price for lack of adequate knowledge of the Communist movement. We are learning in the hard school of adversity that Communists are enemies of freedom, it is their aim to dominate the world, and that they will stop at nothing to gain their end. But the American People still lack an adequate background of knowledge concerning the theoretical foundation and the historical development of the Communist movement."

Programs of the nature of this Seminar can do much to bring home to the American people the need for constant vigilance lest our way of life become subverted from within. In this connection it is noteworthy that the communist conspiracy does not hesitate to use the very freedoms which are protected by our Constitution and by our form of government as allies in disguise to cover up their steady underground assaults upon our democratic faith. Civil liberties have their proper sphere under a government founded upon law but when those civil liberties are used to undermine the very foundations of those liberties a dilemma of the greatest magnitude is presented and there is no easy answer. Lawyers and the Courts must remain conscious of the possibility of the misuse of civil liberty to aid the Communist cause. We must not become dupes by entrapment. Lawyers also, should affirmatively support the splendid work being done by many outstanding Americans who are working seriously to expose the communist menace by emphasizing the need for education as the means of understanding clearly the tactics, the strategy and the objectives of the communists. I would add one word of caution -- in this work we must beware of those who would denounce Anti-Communists in the name of civil liberty. Such denunciations may come from those who are sincerely dedicated to the preservation of liberty under

law, but such criticism of patriotic endeavor in exposing the communist line too often comes from those who, if not actual communists have leanings and associations which make them, at the very least, a fellow traveller. So I say, that we must in our vigilance -- Beware of the Anti-Anti-Communist.

I cannot close these few remarks without expressing congratulations to the American Bar Association and the other sponsoring groups for making this program possible. It is programs of this nature that will make lasting contributions in making a strong America stronger and which will contribute greatly to preventing any growth of Communist strength to challenge our liberties and our way of life.

